

Statistics Weekly

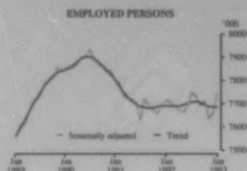
Thursday, 18 February 1993



statistics

The week in statistics ...

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Trend unemployment rate steady

The trend unemployment rate in January 1993 was 11.2 per cent, the third consecutive month it has been at this level. While the underlying trend in employment is relatively flat, trend estimates of unemployment continue to increase although the rate of increase has slowed in recent months.

Employment

The January 1993 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,748,200, an increase of 87,600 since December 1992. For males, employment rose by 40,600, with increases of 18,900 in full-time employment and 21,700 in part-time employment. For females employment rose by 47,000, with increases of 33,800 in full-time employment and 13,200 in part-time employment.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for January 1993 was 950,800, a decrease of 27,900 since December 1992. For males, unemployment fell by 11,000 to 587,100, mainly due to a fall of 10,100 in the number of males looking for part-time work. Female unemployment decreased by 16,900 to 363,700, with a decrease of 10,500 in the number of females seeking full-time work.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate for January 1993 was 10.9 per cent, a fall of 0.4 percentage points since December 1992. For males, the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 11.6 per cent while for females, it fell by 0.6 percentage points to 10.0 per cent.

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 63.0 per cent in January 1993, compared with 62.7 per cent in December 1992. The male and female participation rates each increased by 0.4 percentage points to 74.3 per cent and 52.1 per cent respectively.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate	Participa- tion rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
— per cent —						
1992						
August	5,861.6	1,870.0	7,731.6	947.5	10.9	63.2
September	5,862.5	1,826.0	7,688.4	927.7	10.8	62.7
October	5,860.3	1,854.2	7,714.5	979.5	11.3	63.2
November	5,844.6	1,791.6	7,636.1	979.9	11.4	62.6
December	5,878.6	1,782.0	7,660.6	978.7	11.3	62.7
1993						
January	5,931.3	1,816.9	7,748.2	950.8	10.9	63.0

Low annual average weekly earnings rise

The increase in each category of average weekly earnings in the year to November 1992 is the lowest recorded for any twelve month period since the introduction of the present series in 1981.

The estimates for the three months to November 1992 have shown small increases in all categories of earnings, except ordinary time earnings of full-time adult males. Additional overtime earnings in this quarter have contributed to these increases.

No movements were statistically significant.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, NOVEMBER 1992

	Average weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	Aug. 1992	Nov. 1991
Full-time adults					
Ordinary time	623.00	522.00	586.90	0.2	1.4
Total	669.50	534.30	621.10	0.7	1.7
All employees	599.30	397.80	505.10	0.2	0.8

Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of employment. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

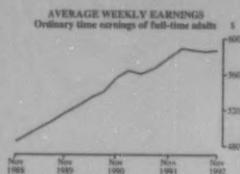
It should also be noted by those using average weekly earnings data for contractual adjustment or related purposes, that these estimates are preliminary. Final estimates for November 1992 are expected to be published on 4 March 1993 in *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, November 1992* (6302.0).

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Preliminary* (6361.0), or contact Ann Soutar on (09) 323 5304.

Retail trade picture uncertain

Growth in the trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments have slowed appreciably following a 3.5 per cent seasonally adjusted decrease for the month of December 1992. However care should be exercised when interpreting the December data because of possible changes in purchasing and trading patterns during December and January.

Continued...



MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



The trend estimates now indicate that this decline in the growth rate has been occurring over the last ten months. In March 1992 the increase was a strong 0.7 per cent. This has steadily dropped to a point where zero growth was recorded for December 1992. It should be noted that if the level of retail turnover for January returns to the general levels prevailing prior to December, there would be significant upwards revisions to the provisional trend estimates.

The industry trend estimates for the grocery industry continue to weaken and are now in decline. Two other major industries covered by the survey, hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs and clothing and fabric stores are also in decline. Other food stores are showing no growth, but department and general stores are averaging moderate growth of 0.3 per cent over the three months ended December 1992.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

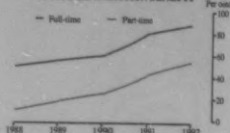
	Original value in December 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended December 1992	12 months ended December 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,729	-0.1	0.5
Butcher	248	1.2	0.9
Other food stores	594	0.0	0.1
Total food group	3,571	0.0	0.4
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	1,191	-0.6	-0.1
Department and general stores	1,634	0.3	0.2
Clothing and fabrics stores	807	-0.6	-0.4
Electrical stores	642	0.9	0.5
Pharmacies	433	0.9	1.1
Newsagents	365	1.0	0.4
Other industries	2,013	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	10,655	0.0	0.3

In constant price (i.e. allowing for price changes) seasonally adjusted terms, the total Australian estimate for the December 1992 quarter fell by 0.2 per cent over the September 1992 quarter but rose by 2.0 per cent over the December 1991.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
At average 1984-85 prices, seasonally adjusted

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From preceding quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
1991			
December	15,326	-0.5	0.7
1992			
March	15,476	1.0	1.9
June	15,719	1.6	4.6
September	15,672	-0.3	1.7
December	15,434	-0.2	2.0

PROPORTION OF ALL EMPLOYEES RECEIVING A SUPERANNUATION BENEFIT



Superannuation coverage doubled in four years

The number of employees covered by a superannuation scheme, in August 1992, was 5,216,000 or 82 per cent of all employees. This includes those employees covered by schemes other than those arranged or provided by their current employer. The proportion of all employees covered by superannuation has doubled between August 1988 and August 1992.

In August 1992, 4,959,400 or 80 per cent of employees received superannuation coverage as an employment benefit in their main job. The proportion of full-time employees who received superannuation coverage as an employment benefit was 88 per cent, an increase from 80 per cent in July 1991, and 49 per cent in August 1988.

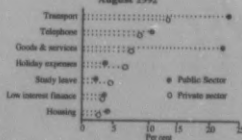
The proportion of part-time employees who received superannuation coverage as an employment benefit has increased to 54 per cent in August 1992, rising from 42 per cent in July 1991, and 10 per cent in August 1988.

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Percentage of employees receiving benefits in main job

	Working full-time		Working part-time		Total employees	
	1988	1992	1988	1992	1988	1992
Superannuation	49	88	10	54	42	80
Holiday leave	92	92	31	33	82	78
Sick leave	92	91	31	33	81	78
Long-service leave	74	78	23	26	65	67
Goods and services	15	17	15	19	15	18
Transport	18	20	6	6	16	17
Telephone	10	10	4	4	9	8
Holiday expenses	4	5	1	1	4	4
Medical	4	4	1	1	3	3

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES RECEIVING SELECTED BENEFITS August 1992



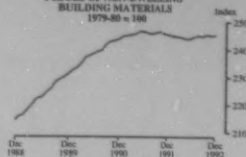
Over the past five years, the proportion of full-time employees receiving sick leave benefits and the proportion of employees receiving holiday leave benefits has remained within the 91 to 93 per cent range. For those working part-time, the proportion receiving these benefits has increased slightly from 31 per cent in August 1988 to 33 per cent in August 1992.

Public sector employees who worked full time in their main job had a higher incidence of the most common employment benefits than their private sector counterparts. These benefits include holiday leave (98% and 89% respectively), sick leave (98% and 88%), superannuation (95% and 85%) and long-service leave (95% and 71%).

Private sector employees who were full time in their main job were more likely to have received benefits other than the standard benefits of leave and superannuation. Included amongst these were goods and services (22% for private sector employees and 8% for public sector employees) and transport (23% and 13% respectively).

For further information, order the publication *Employment Benefits, Australia* (6334.0), or contact Jon Havelock (06) 252 6503.

PRICES OF NON-DWELLING
BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



Building materials up slightly

Prices of building materials increased marginally between November and December 1992. Prices of materials used in house building increased by 0.3 per cent while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 0.1 per cent.

The main contributors to the overall price increase for materials used in house building were ready mixed concrete (1.0%) and structural timber (0.3%). For materials used in other forms of building, galvanised steel decking and cladding (1.9%) and ready mixed concrete (0.3%) were the main contributors.

On an annual basis prices of materials used in house building increased by 1.6 per cent from December 1991 to December 1992 while prices of materials used in other form of building were unchanged.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, DECEMBER 1992
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	-0.1	1.2	-0.1	-1.0
Melbourne	0.6	2.5	0.4	0.8
Brisbane	0.2	2.2	0.1	1.4
Adelaide	0.3	-0.2	0.0	-1.2
Perth	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Hobart	0.3	2.3	0.1	0.9
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.0
Drumwin	— Not available —		-0.2	1.2
Canberra	0.0	1.7	-0.1	-0.1

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

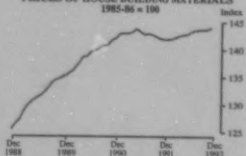
Wine sales in brief ...

In seasonally adjusted terms, total domestic sales of Australian wine by winemakers in December 1992 were 25.8 million litres, an increase of 2.8 per cent on November 1992 following an increase of 2.7 per cent in the previous month. These two seasonally adjusted increases have influenced the trend in wine sales which has now flattened out following the decline evident since April 1992.

Australia exported 7.0 million litres of wine in November 1992 with a value of \$18.3 million.

Source: *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, December 1992 (8504.0)*.

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



Inquiries

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Editor

(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
18 February 1993

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 2 March

February

- 18** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, December 1992 (\$609.0; \$10.00)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1993, December Quarter 1992 Survey, Preliminary (\$625.0; \$10.70)
Export Price Index, Australia, December 1992 (\$605.0; \$8.20)
- 19** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, December 1992 (\$612.0; \$10.70)
- 23** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, December 1992 (\$611.0; \$10.70)
Import Price Index, Australia, December 1992 (\$614.0; \$8.20)
- 25** Manufacturing Production, Australia, January 1993, Preliminary (\$301.0; \$10.70)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, January 1993, Preliminary (\$301.0; \$10.70)

March

- 1** Balance of Payments, Australia, January 1993 (\$301.0; \$16.30)
Building Approvals, Australia, January 1993 (\$731.0; \$13.30)

Selected releases: 10 to 16 February

Census of Population and Housing

1996 Census — ABS Views on Content and Procedures (2007.0; free over the counter) — *new issue*

Social statistics

Music and Performing Arts at Major Venues in Capital Cities, 1991 (4171.0; \$1.50) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, Detailed Commodity Tables (includes microfiche), 1991–92 (\$536.0; \$63.00)

Personal Finance, Aust., December 1992 (\$642.0; \$6.10)

Labour statistics and prices

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., December 1992 (\$312.0; \$12.70)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., January 1993 (\$610.0; \$5.60)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., December 1992 (\$615.0; \$10.70)

Agriculture

Livestock and Livestock Products, SA, 1991–92 (\$721.4; \$16.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, December 1992 (\$368.0; \$7.00)

Building Approvals, Tas., December 1992 (\$731.6; \$10.70)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., November 1992 (\$741.6; \$7.10)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	Dec. 92	\$m	-814	-1,221	25	-96
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-617	-353	n.a.	-37.5
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-332	-37	89.1	n.a.
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,397	5,195	1.5	14.4
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4,780	-4,842	-5.6	21.8
Net foreign debt	30 Sept. 92	\$m	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at 1984-85 prices	Dec. qtr 92	\$m	17,628	15,634	-0.2	2.0
New capital expenditure at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	"	4,481	4,566	-0.1	-8.4
New motor vehicle registrations	Dec. 92	no.	49,036	46,323	1.4	12.5
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Dec. 92	no.	14,051	15,181	7.8	24.2
Building approvals	"	\$m	1,988	2,110	7.2	24.2
Building work done at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	"	3,919	3,805	-0.1	0.9
Prices						
Consumer price index	Dec. qtr 92	1989-90 = 100.0	107.9	n.a.	0.5	0.3
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Nov. 92	1988-89 = 100.0	114.2	n.a.	0.1	2.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Nov. 92	1984-85 = 100.0	127.9	n.a.	0.1	6.1
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	Jan. 93	'000	7,597.8	7,748.2	1.1	0.4
Participation rate †	"	%	62.4	63.0	0.6	-0.4
Unemployment rate †	"	%	11.8	10.9	-3.5	5.3
Job vacancies	Nov. 92	'000	29.2	30.2	12.5	17.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.20	1.13	2.2	5.9
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	June 92	million	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Nov. 92	'000	255	232	4.5	12.4
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Nov. 92	\$	586.90	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Nov. 92	% per annum	5.85	n.a.	0.0	-2.40
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.15	n.a.	0.30	-0.65
Exchange rate — \$US	Dec. 92	per SA	0.6896	n.a.	-0.1	-10.7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators

	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 92	-21.5	-10.5	-5.7	-30.8	-3.4	-13.4	n.a.	n.a.	-14.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Dec. 92	0.6	2.6	8.7	-1.6	10.2	4.6	n.a.	6.8	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations†	Dec. 92	23.6	7.5	2.3	19.9	14.0	-9.8	13.9	8.7	12.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Dec. 92	23.1	29.5	25.7	36.2	46.8	13.1	0.0	-8.2	24.1
Value of total building work done	Sept. qtr 92	-7.6	-5.1	12.5	2.4	12.5	-9.5	26.6	11.2	0.0
Employed persons*	Jan. 93	-0.4	-2.1	3.0	0.3	3.4	0.3	-2.3	8.0	0.4
Capital city consumer price index	Dec. 92	0.3	0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Aug. 92	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population	June 92	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.7
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	1.7

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.
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